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THE OPINION



Volume 34, No. 15

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF LAW

April 19, 1994

Dwyer Elected SBA President

Machado, Jewett, Easterday Capture Executive Board Seats

By Evan Baranoff, Editor-in-Chief

Ben Dwyer, 1L, was elected Student Bar Association president April 13, winning 53 percent of the vote. Leslie P. Machado, Elizabeth Anna Jewett, and Adam R. Easterday were elected vice-president, treasurer and parliamentarian/office manager respectively.

The SBA general election took place on April 12 and 13. Only 354 law students voted in the general election, amounting to a turnout of less than 50 percent. Approximately 450 law students voted in last year's general election.

In the presidential race, Dwyer received 187 votes, defeating Roxanne Marvasti (2L), who received 136 votes, and Mike Rickard (1L), who received 31 votes.

In the race for vice-president, Machado won 45 percent of the vote. He received 143 votes, to Craig Brown's (1L) 97 votes and John Leifert's (1L) 79 votes.

Jewett, who ran unopposed for treasurer, received 212 votes. Sheri Keeling, 1L, who ran as a write-in candidate, received 45 votes.

The parliamentarian race was the closest race of the four. Easterday won the seat by six votes, defeating Emilia Chernyavsky (1L) by a margin of 152 to 146 votes.

Dwyer said the new Board will work very well together in addressing students' concerns. "My goal is to make the SBA a respectable and cohesive organization able to work as a team to tackle many important issues," he said.

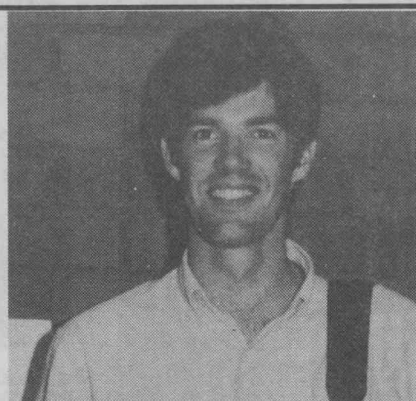
Dwyer said the administration needs to listen more to the students, adding that he wants to work with the administration to address the many concerns students have about the law school. Complaints raised by students included late grades, limited course selections and inadequate Research and Writing classes, Dwyer said.

"I don't think that the SBA this year did enough to get the administration to engage us in dialogue over these problems," Dwyer said. "We need to get the administration to sit down with us." After all, he added, "The students are the *raison d'être* of the law school."

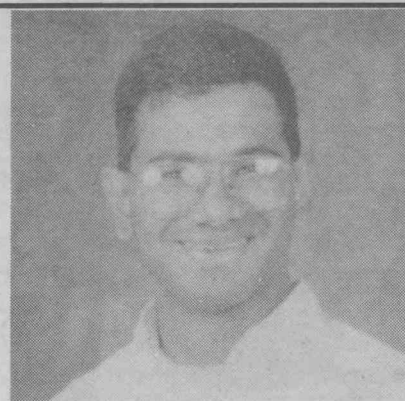
Dwyer also said he wants to "foster and strengthen a sense of community at UB Law," which he said was "sour" by the SBA's infighting. "A respectable SBA helps create a more friendly community atmosphere," he said.

One of the things Dwyer proposes is a community service day where law students can volunteer time on a public service project.

The new Executive Board officers will take office on May 1.



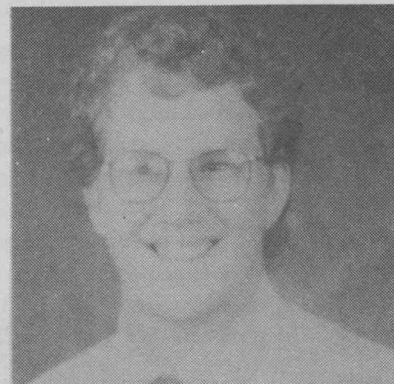
Ben Dwyer



Leslie P. Machado



Elizabeth Anna Jewett



Adam R. Easterday

1994-95 SBA GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

SBA President:

Ben Dwyer 187
Roxanne Marvasti 136
Mike Rickard 31

SBA Vice President:

Leslie P. Machado 143
Craig Brown 97
John L. Leifert 79

SBA Treasurer:

Elizabeth Anna Jewett 212
*Sheri Keeling 45

SBA Parliamentarian/ Office Manager:

Adam R. Easterday 152
Emilia Chernyavsky 146

* Signifies a write-in candidate

Proposed Administrative Fee Irks Student Leaders

by Joseph Broadbent, Features Editor

University administrators have recently proposed the creation of a Student Fee Administration Office that would act to oversee the handling and processing of spending requests submitted to it by the student governments, a job currently handled jointly by Sub Board I and the administration. The Office would be funded by a 2 percent fee of the budgets of each of the seven student governments on campus.

In February, Dean of Students Dennis Black circulated a proposal to create a new office to serve as an oversight in the area of student government finances. The office would be run by one individual and would review the various spending requests submitted by student governments.

Black said that he came up with the proposal not to control the student governments, but as an effort to preserve the power the governments have to decide how to spend their budgets. He said that there have been a number of recent improprieties, such as the pocketing of admission receipts by government members and events which have resulted in plea bargains in criminal court, which demonstrates that the organizations aren't able to handle

their responsibilities properly.

Part of the problem, he said, is that Sub Board I, who currently does the accounting for the student governments, is run by and controlled by the students it is supposed to be watching over. As a result, he said, it isn't likely to tell the student governments what they can and cannot do.

Currently, student governments submit spending proposals to Sub Board I, which then reviews the proposals to ensure that they conform to proper procedures. Once Sub Board gives approval, the proposals must be reviewed by the administration to ensure that they conform to State Trustees' guidelines before the funds are disbursed. Under the proposal, one person who is independent from the student governments will be assigned the task of reviewing the proposals and helping the governments better manage and use their funds.

Sub Board and the student governments are decidedly opposed to the plan. Opponents say that the job of reviewing proposals should be done by the administration. They say there is no need to create a special office and no need to appropriate part of their budgets to fund it. Most opponents feel that the proposal doesn't conform to the Trustees' guidelines, which they say gives the administration a limited role of merely seeing if the proposals conform to the guidelines, not passing on their wisdom, as they believe the new office will do. They also feel that the administration cannot take part of the student governments' budget and spend it for them.

In a response to Black's proposal written

on behalf of the other student governments, SBA President Baptiste expressed disapproval of the proposal and offered to meet with Black to discuss alternative proposals. The letter called the proposal a "wasted effort" and stated that the problems could be solved through less drastic means such as reducing the amount of paperwork created by the governments and training the student governments to better review the proposals. The letter went on to say that the proposal would greatly encroach upon the governments' power to spend their own money.

William Hooley, executive director of Sub Board, also stated that there are other options available such as having the student governments grant Sub Board the greater oversight power, which would eliminate the need for a separate office. Hooley stated that the office isn't a bad idea but using student fees to fund it is. Like many other opponents of the proposal, he doesn't think the students should have to pay the administration more money to do what is already its job.

Black maintains that something must be done soon before campus or state officials decide that the current system isn't working, which could lead to a transfer of fiscal authority back to the University. He insists that he wants to see student control continue, but that something must be done to stop the way that governments are currently abusing the system. He said that the goal of the plan is to help the governments plan and organize the way in which they spend their money.

Baptiste Resigns On Eve Of Recall

By Evan Baranoff, Editor-in-Chief

Student Bar Association President Saultan Baptiste yesterday announced his resignation as SBA president. Baptiste's resignation comes hours before he would have faced a recall election.

"Faced with near certain recall or resignation, Saultan chose the less embarrassing option," said now acting SBA president Paul Beyer.

The recall election scheduled for yesterday and today was cancelled upon receiving Baptiste's letter of resignation.

"The only reason for this resignation is

to allow me, as well as other members of the law school community, to concentrate on the more important goal of preparing for final exams, which begin on April 25," wrote Baptiste in his letter of resignation. "The time necessary to campaign against a recall, which would allow me to remain in office for one additional week, would be wasted in light of my long term academic responsibilities."

Baptiste's resignation is effective as of midnight April 15, according to his letter.

Beyer will now act as SBA president until SBA President-Elect Ben Dwyer takes office on May 1.

HIGHLIGHTS

Speaker Says Democracy Is In Trouble.....3
Editorial and Opinion Mailbox.....4-5
Senior's Week Agenda.....7

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everybody's talking
about!!!



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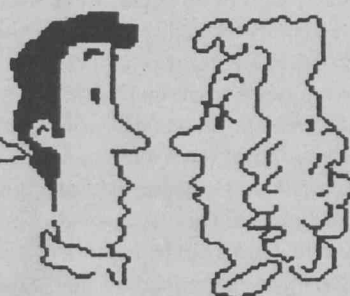


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Victory!



The IL Jessup Moot Court Team was victorious at the Fasken-Cambell-Godfrey International Moot Court Competition held in Toronto on March 19. From Left to Right, Front Row: Les Machado, Bridget Cawley, Liz Goldberg, Nicole Johnson, Karen Bailey, Kristin Jones. Back Row: William Thomas Gargan, Sada Manickam, Scott Rosenberg, and Peter Beadle.

IL Jessup Team Recaptures Fasken Championship For UB

by M. Bridget Cawley, Contributor

UB Law School swept this year's the Fasken Campbell Godfrey International Law Moot competition which was held on March 19 in Toronto.

The team, which consisted of ten first-year students selected from February's intramural competition, placed first in all three award categories. Peter Beadle and Kristin Jones won the award for "Best Applicant Team," while "Best Respondent Team" went to Karen Bailey and Scott Rosenberg.

The overall scores for these teams, combined with the scores for Nicole Johnson and Sada Manickam (Respondent) and Elizabeth Goldberg and William Thomas Gargan (Applicant) helped UB Law win the award for "Best School." Les Machado and Bridget Cawley were the team's alternates. Syracuse University, Cornell University, Osgoode Hall at York University, University of Toronto and Queen's University were the other competitors.

Last year, Syracuse won the award for "Best School," beating UB by less than a point. UB however, won the competition in

1991 and 1992.

The competition, sponsored by the Toronto-based law firm Fasken Campbell Godfrey, provides an opportunity for first-year students to prepare and present oral argument on an international law issue. This year the actual competition rounds were held in the Federal Court of Canada. Each team participated in two rounds of oral argument with each team member allocated 20 minutes each round.

The question presented this year involved the fictional country of Balboa, which was detaining a prominent human rights lawyer and her family, as well as several hundred people fleeing civil strife pending their return to their original countries. Teams representing the applicant country of Freedonia tried to convince the "judges" sitting on the International Court of Justice that the detainees should be released to Freedonia. Teams representing the respondent team of Balboa attempted to convince the ICJ that Balboa's decision to return the parties to their original countries, rather than allowing them to go to Freedonia, was the proper course of action.

Help Available For Victims Of Domestic Violence

by Joe Bates, Contributor

One of the most basic rights is the right to be safe in one's home.

This was the topic of the recent talk by Suzanne Tomkins, "Women's and Children's Rights: A Local Perspective," sponsored by the Graduate Group on Human Rights. Ms. Tomkins sits on the Erie County Commission Against Family Violence.

The discussion focused mainly on domestic violence against women. Tomkins began her talk with some startling statistics. Overall, women are safer in the streets than in the home. Some 50 percent of homicides are committed by intimates, and 20 percent of all women seeking medical treatment need it due to the results of domestic violence. In the State of New York, domestic violence is the largest cause of injury to women. Closer to home, the Buffalo Police Department answers roughly

20,000 domestic violence calls a year.

With the Violence Against Women Act the Federal Government has dedicated more resources to provide education, counseling, and shelters for women and children. The biggest task, however, is simply to inform victims that help is available.

Tomkins defines domestic violence as a pattern of battering and abuse. It is a systematic use of intimidation to maintain control, not just a single violent argument. Domestic violence can take many forms, and it's not easy for the victim to get the help she needs.

The modern movement to help battered women started in the 1970s with the opening of shelters and counseling centers. In 1990, the Law School Task Force on Domestic Violence began working with Haven House, a shelter for battered women, offering volunteer legal services to victims of domestic violence.

UB Law Volleyball:

Tortfeasors 'Beat Down' Competition

by Jeffery Weiss, Staff Writer

To steal the words of Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, who stole them from former Justice Byron White, who for some bizarre reason stole them from the Grateful Dead, "What a ride it's been."

This memorable quote accurately describes the phenomenal season that the first year law school intramural volleyball team just wrapped up. This hard working group of student athletes went by the name of "The Tortfeasors" and quickly put the rest of the volleyball world on notice that they were a force to be reckoned with. They battled their way to a regular season record of seven wins and three losses, followed by a playoff run that saw them make it all the way to the divisional championships.

This group of diggers and spikers should be proud of the fact that they displayed class, teamwork and sportsmanship on the gym floor. However, opposing teams soon discovered that they should not confuse such exemplary behavior with softness. Simply put, the Tortfeasors specialized in handing out beat downs. Captain Sada Manickam had this focused group pumped up for every match. This team struck

fast and hard, with an offensive onslaught led by Shannon McIntee, Dave Zagon and Sean Kennedy. Their merciless attack often left opposing teams with a look of horror in their eyes.

The Tortfeasors were not carried by one or two players, but put forth a full scale team effort every time they entered the gym. This team featured such hard hitters as Terry Brophy, Shea Rourke and Jenifer Scalisi, as well as defensive standouts Gina Di Gioia and Jeffery Weiss.

By mid-season, a team cohesion had developed and the fear began to spread around the campus. There was a new kid on the block and they meant business.

The most important thing that came out of this experience was that all of the team members had a lot of good clean fun. Law School can be a miserable place where you have to deal with uptight students and crabby professors, but the members of the Tortfeasors are proudest of the fact that they were able to take a few hours off each week and enjoy each other's company. Hopefully, the rest of the Law School will follow their lead and put aside some time to blow off some steam.

Speaker Warns That Market Culture Threatens Democracy

By Karen A. M. Bailey, News Editor

Cornel West, director of the Afro-American Studies Program at Princeton University and author of the New York Times bestseller, "Race Matters," addressed a large audience at UB's Alumni Arena last month. The Professor of Philosophy, who has eight additional books to his credit, was the guest lecturer for the Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Center's Centennial Celebration Lecture. In introducing West, university president, William Greiner pointed out that "few academics today have as broad an impact on the critical questions that we have about race and class."

Central to West's address was his concern with the preservation of "the best of tradition" in order to ensure the survival of a truly democratic society. West, who considers himself "a beneficiary of and joyful participant in the African-American tradition of struggle," focused on the importance of subscribing to the "radical democratic tradition." He described this concept as involving "the notion that everyday people ought to be able to live lives of dignity."

According to West, this approach is radical in view of the fact that "throughout history, ordinary people have been forced to defer to unaccountable elites and have had their humanity rendered invisible." For example, he asked his audience to consider whether those who built the Egyptian pyramids did so voluntarily or even had the opportunity to build monuments to their own existences. Addressing examples in American history,

West emphasized that the tradition of white male supremacy "was like a serpent wrapped around the feet of the table on which the Declaration of Independence was signed." He pointed out that where "ordinary people's lives have been subordinated, manipulated and devalued" by supremacist ideals and economic inequity, "the resulting despair, distrust, poverty and paranoia creates a sense of political incompetence [i.e.] the feeling that individuals can't make a difference." Dr West explained that when this happens it becomes impossible to give power to the word people and cautioned that "the sign of a democracy is decay is one that can no longer put a premium on the public."

According to West, the existence of the market culture is a major phenomenon that makes it difficult to preserve democracy. He described this as "the rapacious, rugged and ragged individualism at work in the United States where we feel that only our individual lives are crucial." In his esteem, when "the private becomes sacred, we associate public issues with disgust and squalor." He explained, for example, that the association of public education with African-American youth and the welfare system with African-American women prevents problems in these areas from being viewed as national priorities. He explained that this individualistic approach prevents recognition "of the overlapping our destinies as groups in society who are tied together by the problems that we face."

Citing specific issues that need to be



Cornel West, Princeton University

addressed, West pointed out that one percent of Americans control 48 percent of the total net financial worth, 20 percent of American children live in poverty and noted that 51 percent of Black children and 42 percent of "Brown" children are poor. "This is oligarchic, plutocratic and pigmentocratic," he asserted.

Addressing solutions to the nation's problems, Dr. West stressed the need for public conversation in order to "create bonds of trust among different groups in society." He emphasized that empathy and compassion, love, hope and a sense of history are necessary to combat "the current loss of democracy" and economic decline. He explained that "love is necessary in order to communicate experiences and to equip individuals to enhance the lives of everyday people." A sense of history - i.e. a sense of each other's contributions to history - provides recognition of our interconnected dependencies, according to West. In his opinion, when American history is taught without information on individual group histories, "it is impossible to engender empathy, sympathy and compassion about the plights of other groups."

In conclusion, he stressed the importance of individuals "making a difference even when their acts may seem invisible." According to West, individual efforts at solutions are still visible to others and "we need to realize that our work has ramifications bigger than ourselves."

The Joe Antonecchia United Farm Workers Internship

In Joe's honor and memory, LAELA and LALSA have started this internship to provide a first or second year law student will intern for 10 weeks with the UFW in California representing and advocating for farm and migrant workers.

A Table will be set up outside room 106 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Today and Tomorrow for donations. Checks may be made payable to Sub-Board I/ Joe Antonecchia UFW Internship and may be left in Kevin Collins' BOX # 630.

Any and all donations would be helpful and greatly appreciated. Peace and rock on!



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 Layout Editor: Vacant
 Photography Editor: Vacant
 Art Director: Vacant

Staff Writers: Paul Beyer, Dan Harris, Leslie Machado, Sharon Nosenchuck, and Jeffrey Weiss

Contributors: Joe Bates, Bridget Cawley

Computer Consultant: Peter Beadle

EDITORIAL Nightmare at UB

How many of you thought when you looked at your course selection booklet: "Is this it?"

Many students labored during these past few weeks to try and find four courses that they found interesting enough to register for and that didn't conflict with each other.

A scarcity of courses, time changes and cancellations made registration a nightmare for many students.

Even before registration materials could be handed in, at least one class had already been canceled. The paper that the course list was printed on was still hot when a parade of other changes began to confound students trying to make some kind of sense of next semester's schedule. And, to add insult to injury, some cancellations were not even posted. Conflict of Laws, for example, was canceled with no advance notice to students, leaving many of us in the twilight zone, unknowingly registering for classes that will never meet.

Registration was so botched this semester that there will be another "pre-registration period" beginning Thursday, April 21, to May 10, when students will be able to drop/add courses, hopefully ones which will still exist next week.

In light of these problems, there is obviously a need for greater coordination between the faculty, A&R, and the students. Although we understand that unforeseen events will arise, there is no excuse for the inefficiency of the current system.

And Now For Something Completely Different:

The Opinion: The Next Generation

The new Editorial Board of The Opinion plans to continue its mission of informing students about events occurring at the Law School and providing students with a voice to share their ideas with the community.

We encourage students to assist us in this effort by becoming a part of The Opinion.

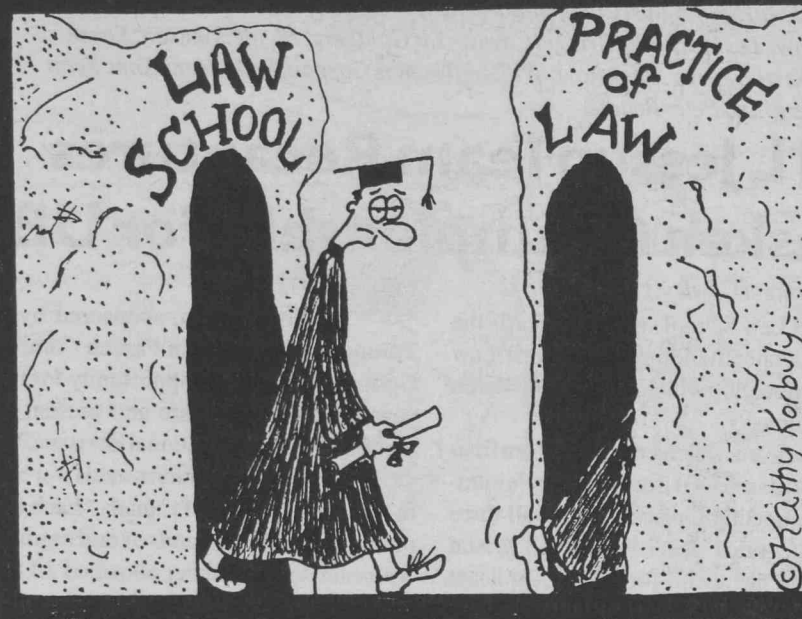
We would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Editorial Board members for an outstanding year. Thank you Paul, Kevin, Sharon, Dan and Kathy. You will be missed.

"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press..."
-- the First Amendment

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The Opinion welcomes letters to the editor but reserves the right to edit for length and libelous content. Letters longer than two typed double spaced pages will be edited for length. Please do not put anything you wish printed under our office door. Submissions can be sent via Campus or United States Mail to The Opinion, SUNYAB Amherst Campus, 724 John Lord O'Brian Hall, Buffalo, New York 14260 (716) 645-2147 or placed in law school mailbox 290. Deadlines for the semester are the Friday before publication.

The ideas expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" and on the commentary page are not necessarily endorsed by the Editorial Board of The Opinion.



Opinion Mailbox

SBA President Paul Beyer's Message To Students

One year ago, I could not have thought that I would be writing the end-of-the-semester Presidential message to the student body. At that time, Saultan Baptiste and I, as running mates, had won the Presidency and the Vice Presidency, respectively. We had all hoped that the mayhem in the previous SBA would be a thing of the past. Unfortunately, as was painfully evident this year, such was not the case.

To dwell on the negatives of the past would only perpetuate the current pessimistic attitude toward the SBA. Rather, I would like to congratulate the first year class for their unprecedented showing at the polls last week, which resulted in an Executive Board comprised entirely of 1L's. President-elect Ben Dwyer and Treasurer-elect Elizabeth Jewett consistently remained above the SBA fracas and lent a moderating force to our proceedings. Their propensity for reasoned diplomacy will come in handy next year. Joined by their classmates Les Machado and Adam Easterday, they present a good opportunity for a strong, more unified SBA; a promise that Saultan and I were unable to fulfill.

As a practical matter, the SBA would be well-served by adopting a number of by-law revisions that I and a committee of Class Directors have developed this year, not the least of which being a stringent absenteeism policy which will be considered at our next meeting. 3L Class Director James Lynch has proposed the development of an independently-elected SBA Judiciary which would serve the

role of adjudicating SBA constitutional issues such as those that arose this year. In addition, President-elect Ben Dwyer put forth by-law revisions that would increase the fiscal accountability of SBA Executive officers during the summer months. Enactment of these and other recommendations would go a long way toward avoiding some of the confusion and gridlock of this past year.

I would also like to thank Saultan for his service to the SBA. While I am dismayed by his recent accusations of racism in his resignation letter, as well as his questionable conduct as President, he devoted a considerable amount of time to his position which cannot go unrecognized....

Finally, I close by relaying a lesson that I learned from the prolonged conflict within the SBA this year; a lesson that was articulated to me so compassionately by SBA Presidential candidate Roxanne Marvasti. It is that we are all here primarily to learn the law and to begin to uphold the ethical standards which are essential to a profession in need of image-building. Out of a commitment to ourselves, our future clients and the entire profession, extraneous activities, such as the SBA, need to be secondary. Thus, if the SBA should once again fall into disarray, please be reminded that there are more important things, such as integrity and the respect of our colleagues, with which we should concern ourselves.

That said, good luck with your finals, summer employment and job searches, and ROCK ON!



...Opinion Mailbox, continued next page and page 7

This is the last issue of The Opinion this semester. Good Luck On Finals and/or the Bar!

Fuel For Thought

By Sharon Nosenchuck

News Editor Emeritus

Mujawamaliya's Survival An Inspiration

Monique Mujawamaliya is alive, unlike tens of thousands of her fellow Rwandans. Ms. Mujawamaliya, who spoke at the Law School Nov. 30, 1993, was feared to have been killed in the violence that has enveloped Rwanda in recent weeks. Ms. Mujawamaliya was on the telephone to Alison Des Forges when soldiers burst into her house in Kigali. Ms. Des Forges, who, in a separate presentation, also spoke at the Law School last semester, is a local Buffalo woman who is on the Board of Africa Watch and is an international authority on Rwanda. Fortunately, Ms. Mujawamaliya was able to make a daring escape from Rwanda and is now reported to be under the diplomatic protection of the Canadian Government.

I won't go into detail about the life of Ms. Mujawamaliya or the history of the ethnic strife in Rwanda. For those of you who heard her speak here last semester or who read the article that was written about her in *The Opinion*, you already know about the work of this courageous human rights activist from central Africa and how the roots of the present conflict in Rwanda have been developing over the past decades (see the November 2, 1993 and December 7, 1993 issues of *The Opinion*). Ms. Mujawamaliya organized the broadest-based and most effective human rights organization in Rwanda. She is an internationally acclaimed human rights activist, who, during her trip to the United States last year, not only spoke at UB, but was also honored by President Clinton at the White House.

Ms. Mujawamaliya was able to leave Rwanda after being designated an honorary Canadian citizen. After hiding for five days while her neighbors were being killed around her, Ms. Mujawamaliya bluffed her way out of her neighborhood in Kigali. Then, with the help

of a local Christian cleric, she was able to get to a hotel which had been serving as a press center for foreign journalists. Foreign diplomats made arrangements for Ms. Mujawamaliya to be evacuated. As only foreign nationals or those deemed their equivalent were able to be evacuated by international relief flights, Ms. Mujawamaliya told authorities that the cleric who helped her was her husband, so that he could escape under Canadian diplomatic protection, too.

It kind of puts things in perspective to think about those living through the chaos in Rwanda versus the chaos of our own law school lives.

Why do I think it is important to bring to the attention of the UB Law School Community the activities of this one woman from a tiny African country? Well, for several reasons. First of all, for those of you who heard her speak and who read about her and were worried about her safety in this troubled time in Rwanda, I wanted to let you know that she is alive and has left Rwanda. Also, I wanted to share some of my thoughts about this woman and what we can learn from her.

As the end of the semester and finals approach, and, for those graduating, the bar review classes and Bar Exam loom ahead, all of us are great at complaining how much stress we are under and how we have so much to do, we don't know how we will be able to finish it all. We talk about how "tough" we have it. However, as I think about Ms. Mujawamaliya's situation, I realize how lucky we are, to have such small complaints in life. At this stressful time in the school year, we should contemplate

how lucky we are to have such petty things to complain about, when others, both in our own country and abroad, have so many other, really serious things to complain about. It kind of puts things in perspective to think about those living through the chaos in Rwanda versus the chaos of our own law school lives.

In addition, I would like to encourage all of us to think about and remember those around us that are less fortunate than ourselves. As we concentrate on our schoolwork, and later, on our professional lives, I hope that we will have compassion, sympathy, and empathy for those around us who are less fortunate than ourselves. I hope that all of us here in the UB Law School Community don't get so caught up in what is going on in our own lives that we forget about those less fortunate, that we continue to think about them and try to help them, each of us in our own individual way, each of us in the way that we can be comfortable with.

As I write this, my last piece for *The Opinion*, I'd like to say how much I enjoyed working on *The Opinion*. I would like to congratulate my fellow members of last year's editorial board on the great job they did. It was a pleasure working with everybody who helped to put the paper out. And I would like to wish the new editorial much luck for the future.

I would like to wish all of you good luck on your finals. Congratulations to all who are graduating this year. And, as you get caught up in the craziness that always surrounds law students as they study for finals and/or the Bar Exam, please try to strive for grace under pressure, and remember the example of Monique Mujawamaliya, a woman who, in a truly stressful and life-threatening situation, due to her ability to think quickly and act intelligently under pressure, was able to keep her cool and stay alive.

Labels

by Dan Harris, Photo Editor Emeritus

Last week I was having a conversation with someone who works with abused families. Since I want to be a career prosecutor, specializing in cases involving rape and other sexual abuses, I thought this person and I would have much in common to discuss. I was shocked when I was accused of being a domineering and overprotective male.

The accusation came when I mentioned that I had to leave in time to meet Lisa when she comes out of her therapy sessions. She's usually a bit uptight afterwards, and needs me to comfort her. The woman I spoke with said that this was just the typical male attitude of the male having to be there to protect the woman. I strongly disagreed. Yes, in this situation Lisa needs me there to comfort her. However, it's mutual and equal. I can't imagine having made it through my mother's death without Lisa there. She was in the room next to me and my aunt as we watched the life monitors slowly (or perhaps too quickly) flatline. On many nights I've woken Lisa up because I'm too upset to sleep. The amount of comfort I get from Lisa cannot be described or quantified. Does this then make her a domineering feminist? No. I strongly believe that Lisa and I have an equal relationship. Both of us are mutually dependent on each other.

I find the label of being a domineering male ironic. So often I've been labeled as ultra-feminist. People have ascribed to me the belief that just for having a Y chromosome there's an automatic presumption of guilt and wrongdoing - especially in rape cases. To continue to be egalitarian, I also disagree with the label of ultra-anything.

Yes, I am a feminist. I believe that women are equal to men and should be treated as such. However, I emphasize the word *equal*. I believe that women should receive equal pay and equal wages. I also believe that women should be required to register for the draft. I don't believe in the assumption that in custody cases women should automatically be presumed to be the better parent. Currently when an unwed couple has a child the mother automatically has the right to keep the baby. The father is required to petition for such. I do not see this as fair. Men and women must be treated equally. (Yes, I believe in paternity leave.)

Labels are interesting. I've been labeled as both a conservative and a liberal. Although I'm a registered Democrat I make it a point never to vote straight ticket, and to always consider each candidate carefully. Nevertheless, people are quick to try to put some sort of label on me. That's the problem with labels; no matter how much you try to force it, people never quite fit completely into the labels ascribed to them.

Okay, enough with labels. Finals force me to complete my last article ever for *The Opinion*. I hope you all have enjoyed reading my articles as much as I've enjoyed writing them this year. It's been quite a trip I must say. We've been stuck in an elevator together. We went through the roller coaster ride of my mother's death. You've also learned that I've not had the best relationship with every one of my housemates, but certainly a decent relationship with some. Once again, Lisa and I are not yet married; we're just betrothed. However, shortly after the bar we shall be fully married. It's about time!

Before I close my final article I must thank a few people who were really there for me during the entire period of my mother's illness and my period of mourning following her death. James DeBenedetto, Dave Brand, Vinnie Graffeo, Chris Pogson, Nicole Wint, and of course Lisa. I know how much I hate labeling; but I have to label you six as true friends who have taught me that no matter how tough it gets I'm never alone. Thanks again!

Good-luck everyone on finals, the bar, the job search, romance, etcetera. It's been great!

...Opinion Mailbox, continued from page 4

Etu Resigns As Class Director

To The Editor:

I regret to inform you that I resigned as Student Bar Association First Year Delegate as of March 22. I feel a need to apologize for how poorly the SBA has functioned this year but recent events have demonstrated that my actions are not responsible for that.

I became involved in the Recall because I felt I could be fair and impartial. I also wanted to help you, as a student, voice your opinion on this very controversial issue. I feel I did

execute my duties equitably. However the board overrode my opinions as chairperson of the Recall committee on several occasions.

I have been subjected to harassment and abuse ranging from verbal to pop cans, to, what I would term a frivolous lawsuit. It is apparent that no matter how hard I and your other delegates try to represent your interest they are frustrated by self involved individuals.

So, while I can not apologize for the ridiculous manner in which SBA has operated, I can express my regret that SBA has not

represented your interests. I refuse to continue to dignify this silly SBA nonsense with sincerity.

Susan M. Etu, 1L

SBA Wrong In Denying CLS a Charter

To The Editor:

On April 13, 1994 the SBA voted 8 to 1 (with 2 abstentions) to deny a charter to the Christian Legal Society (CLS). I will only deal here with the issue of discrimination in what appears to be an arbitrary and capricious decision. The issues of state action, free speech and the freedom of religion will be left for another day. However, before my brief criticism of this decision, I first wish to publicly thank Saultan Baptiste's evenhanded treatment of our CLS application and the thoughtful consideration on the part of some SBA members as to the legitimate issue(s).

The CLS application met all the objective criteria for approval. However, approval was denied (as I understand the stated rationale) because of an alleged violation of the SBA bylaws by CLS bylaws. Section 14 (c) of the SBA bylaws states that all chartered and/or funded student organizations must "remain open to all law students." A consensus was quickly reached that construed this section to mean all students must have access to, not only meetings and activities, but also voting and officer positions. By this interpretation, the SBA has attempted to unilaterally modify the existing charters of all SBA organizations. CLS meetings and activities have always been open to all students, however, our bylaws provide that anyone who desires voting/officer

...Charter, continued on page 7

Baptiste's Letter Of Resignation

Dear Fellow Law Student:

As of midnight April 15, 1994, I, Saultan H. Baptiste, resign from the office of President of the Student Bar Association. The only reason for this resignation is to allow me, as well as other members of the law school community, to concentrate on the more important goal of preparing for final exams which begin on April 25.

It is unfortunate that a SBA recall election was scheduled so late in the academic year, but my first commitment must be to my higher goal of completing my legal education. The time necessary to campaign against a recall, which would allow me to remain in office for one additional week, would be wasted in light of my long term academic responsibilities. I have successfully accomplished all of my goals as SBA President and I must now move forward towards graduation.

As a progressive person of color, it is not unusual that every action during my term of office was questioned and painted in a light that was unfavorable. Each act was painted with the brush of hatred and jealousy which

distorted the truth. Now that the dust has settled, I hope that you can now see the accomplishments made this year. I have enclosed a full report for your review.

It is also my hope that SBA Vice President Paul Beyer will honor his public promise not to assume the SBA Presidency given his conduct this year. This would allow the newly elected President for next year, Mr. Ben Dwyer, to immediately assume the office and begin to repair the damage to SBA's reputation. I wish Ben the best of luck in his term of office.

This year in SBA is only a snapshot in history. Given the historic and incremental improvements established during my administration, it is my hope that these achievements have laid a strong and lasting foundation for future SBA presidents to build upon

Sincerely,

Saultan H. Baptiste

P.S. Good Luck on finals and your future endeavors!!!

ATTENTION 1995 GRADUATES

ENROLL NOW -- PAY LATER

As a special promotion thru the month of April, you may enroll for the BAR/BRI 1995 New York Bar Review Course in one of two ways:

1. Complete an enrollment application and put **NO MONEY DOWN**. You will be billed in June for the \$75 registration fee. The \$75 payment, due by July 15th, will hold the discounted tuition currently in effect.

OR

2. Complete an enrollment application and include your registration fee of \$75. This entitles you to receive selected BAR/BRI outlines for use this semester and also entitles you to receive the MPRE review book and lecture. As with option one, the registration fee, of course, also holds the discounted tuition currently in effect.

There you have it -- two options. Whichever one you choose, you get New York's and the nation's largest and most personalized bar review with a proven track record of success, and you save at least \$125 off the 1994 tuition. Our anticipated 1995 tuition is \$1550. By enrolling now, your discounted tuition will be \$1350.

Also note, with either option, if you get a job with a firm that pays for your bar review course, we will immediately refund you the \$75 that you have placed with us.

Additionally, if you accept a job in another state, your enrollment may be transferred to that state and you will receive the tuition in effect in that state at the time of your enrollment.

To enroll for either of these options, see your representative or contact us at the above number

BAR/BRI

* SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE *

We are pleased to announce that we have *awarded more than \$100,000* in bar review scholarships for the Summer 1994 New York, New Jersey and New England Bar Review courses. While other bar review courses *advertise* similar programs, *BAR/BRI delivers what it promises.*

The purpose of the BAR/BRI scholarship program is to aid those students demonstrating financial hardship to defray the cost of their bar review course. BAR/BRI's continuing dedication to law students, combined with our comprehensive materials and distinguished lecturers, has once again resulted in enrollments surpassing all the other bar review programs combined.

In light of this scholarship program's success and our constant commitment to law students and the legal profession, we intend to continue this program for the 1995 academic year.

BAR/BRI
BAR REVIEW

...Opinion Mailbox, continued from page 5

membership must affirm a statement of faith.

First, several chartered SBA organizations make membership contingent upon agreement with the particular organization's purpose or ideology: "Membership in NALSA shall be open to all... who indicate agreement with the organization's propose." Native American Law Student Association Constitution. There are other organizations that restrict officers with requirements set forth by a national association. The denial of our application when other organizations have criteria for membership indicates a singling out of CLS for discriminatory treatment.

Second, not only do all SBA organizations have certain membership restrictions but this criteria serves an important and necessary function. What is to prevent a "hostile takeover" of any minority student association? Under this misconstrued (and now official) "interpretation" of the SBA bylaws, the majority must rule every student organization regardless if they subscribe to that organization's purpose. The tyranny of a majority is a very possibility here. In fact, several SBA members have already expressed differing levels of open hostility toward CLS.

It was evident that the CLS affirmation criteria is not what the majority of SBA want it to be. However, this criteria is reasonable, it does not violate the reasonable and historically implemented reading of 14 (c), and it is

not different in kind from that of other organizations.

Over the past year, CLS has presented several speakers with important and distinct views (distinct from the perspective of the Law School's dominant culture) directly relevant to the study of law. Many students have expressed an acknowledgement of the contribution CLS has and continues to make to this marketplace of ideas. How can any unique organizational view be preserved when all organizations are now mandated to become potentially pluralistic in leadership and lose their identity in the process? Without an SBA charter, CLS speech remains a distinct disadvantage to that speech presently in this SBA established forum.

The issue of SBA discrimination is certainly ironic. At this great "liberal" and "openminded" University, only certain views are endorsed. Limited access to facilities may be (grudgingly) given to minority speech but full access to an equal playing field will be given only if the association puts at risk its very nature and purpose. Fortunately, fair and equal treatment does not demand that. Some of those that suppress minority views claim that they would never arbitrarily discriminate. But what is done is more telling than what is said.

Jim Farnsworth, 2L
President of CLS at Buffalo

Announcement:

Benefit for the Women's Law Center
"The Kathy & Mo Show"
7 p.m., Sunday, May 1
Mount St. Mary Academy Auditorium
3756 Delaware Ave., Kenmore.
For more information, call 838-0256.

TO ALL GRADUATING LAW STUDENTS:

What's a Bar Exam??? Party Hard One Last Time!!!

U.B. LAW SENIOR WEEK CELEBRATION

SENIOR WEEK EVENTS:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Friday, May 6 | After Finals Happy Hour - 5 pm - 8 pm
The Shebeen, 252 Delaware Avenue |
| Saturday, May 7 | Habitat for Humanity
- volunteer project to improve neighborhood housing
- Senior Week Ticket is not required for this event |
| Saturday, May 7 | The Last Bash at 573 Linwood
9 pm - until
573 Linwood Avenue (between Delaware & Main) |
| Sunday, May 8 | Barbecue/Picnic at Baird Point
12 noon - dusk
Food, Beer, Softball, Volleyball, etc. |
| Monday, May 9 | Bowling & Beer Night
9 pm to Midnight
Town Lanes, 465 Oliver, North Tonawanda |
| Tuesday, May 10 | U.B. Law Night at Pilot Field
5 pm: All-You-Can-Eat & Drink Pre-Game Party
at Luke & Ollie's Restaurant inside Pilot Field
7 pm: Baseball Game, Bisons vs. Nashville |
| Wednesday, May 11 | Awards Dinner Dance
6 pm to Midnight
Delaware Park Casino - Semi-formal attire required
Funded in part by a generous contribution from Bar Bri Bar Review |

Admission to all Senior Week events will cost
Only \$20.00 per person.

You must R.S.V.P. for both the **Baseball Game** and the **Awards Dinner Dance**
at the time you purchase your tickets.

Tickets may not be purchased for individual events.

*** Space is Limited So Buy Your Tickets Now ***
Tickets Available in Room 314 O'Brian Hall

Please make all checks payable to: **Student Bar Association.**

For further info. contact: Saultan Baptiste, James Lynch, Susan Soong, Joel Sunshine, Sarah Swartzmeyer

Failure To Meet Grade Deadline Hurts Students

Dear Dean Boyer:

Thank you for your attention concerning my letter of January 27, 1994. In that letter, I solicited your help in encouraging faculty to adhere to the February 15, 1994 deadline for Fall 1993 grades to be submitted to the Office of Admissions and Records. The majority of the faculty were successful in meeting the deadline and many members of the student body greatly appreciated their timeliness.

However, several faculty members failed to meet the deadline and some Fall grades are still outstanding. There is no question that this delay has detrimentally impacted students who require this information in their job search. The greatest impact is on first year law students as they have no previous measure of academic performance in law school with which to show prospective employers. In addition, several students, who are seeking a semester abroad at other law schools, have complained that their paid applications are threatened with termination due to their failure to have a complete transcript available for review. Please contact these professors and instruct them to turn in their grades with all deliberate speed.

I read the Letter to the Editor from my fellow classmate, Joshua Kimerling, which was published in the March 22, 1994 issue of

The Opinion. I found his argument for a shorter time frame for grades to be returned to be very compelling. I concur that more work must be done to shorten the period granted to professors for grades to be completed. As the deadline for Spring 1994 grades are already set, I plan to suggest to next year's SBA Executive Officers that they consider forming a sub-committee to investigate a way to reduce the current time frame utilized by the faculty. I ask that you consider forming a similar faculty committee so that both can work together on improving this ongoing problem.

Lastly, as we enter the warmer months, I ask that you remind the faculty of the deadline of June 15, 1994 for Spring grades to be submitted to A&R. As the law firm recruitment process begins in early Fall, it is imperative that Spring grades are available in a timely manner.

On behalf of the student body, I appreciate the efforts of the members of the law faculty concerning these matters and their compliance with the prescribed deadline.

Sincerely,
Saultan H. Baptiste
SBA President

(Editor's Note: This letter was written on April 13.)

Probing, Timely, Controversial, Beer...

Join The Opinion!

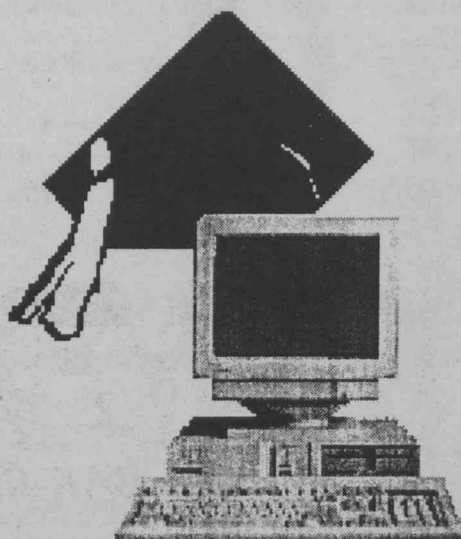
The Opinion is in the market for a photography editor, graphics editor and layout editor. Assistant editor and reporter positions are also available.

Interested parties should call x2147 or leave a note in Box #290.

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BAR/BRI
NEW YORK SUMMER 1994
LOCATION INFORMATION SHEET

(ALL LOCATIONS VIDEO UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED)

ALBANY	Albany Law School	9AM/1:30PM/6PM
ANN ARBOR, MI	YMCA - 350 South Fifth Avenue	9:30AM
ATLANTA, GA	TENTATIVE - Georgia State Univ Law School	1:30PM
BERKELEY, CA	TENTATIVE - UC Berkeley - Boalt Hall	1:30PM
BOSTON, MA	Boston University School of Law	9:30AM/6PM
BRIDGEPORT, CT	Bridgeport Holiday Inn - 1070 Main Street	10AM
BROOKLYN	Brooklyn Law School	9:30AM/1:45PM/6PM
BUFFALO	SUNY at Buffalo School of Law	9:30AM/1:45PM/6PM
CAMBRIDGE, MA	Harvard Law School	9:30AM
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA	Univ. of Virginia School of Law	9AM
CHICAGO, IL		
1) HYDE PARK	Univ. of Chicago Law School	9:30AM
2) GOLD COAST	Northwestern Law School	9:30AM
DURHAM, NC	Duke Univ. School of Law	9:30AM
HARTFORD, CT	Univ. of Hartford	9:30AM
HEMPSTEAD	Hofstra Univ. School of Law	9:30AM/1:45PM/6PM
ITHACA	Cornell Law School	9:30AM
LOS ANGELES, CA	BAR/BRI Office - 3280 Motor Avenue	1:30PM
MANHATTAN		
1) DOWNTOWN	NYU Law School	9:30AM/1:45PM
2) MIDTOWN	A - Town Hall - 43rd St. (bet. 6th Ave. & B'way)	9:30AM (LIVE)
	B - BAR/BRI Lecture Hall - 1500 B'way (at 43rd)	6PM
3) UPTOWN	Columbia Law School	9:30AM/1:45PM
4) WALL STREET AREA	Whitehall Club - 17 Battery Place	6PM
MIAMI, FL	BAR/BRI Office	9AM
MONMOUTH COUNTY, NJ	Holiday Inn - 700 Hope Road - Tinton Falls	2PM
MONTREAL, CAN.	McGill Univ.	9AM
NEWARK, NJ	Rutgers Univ. Law School	10AM/6PM
NEW HAVEN, CT	Colony Inn - 1157 Chapel Street	9:30AM
NEW ORLEANS, LA	Tulane Law School	9:30AM
NEWTON, MA	Boston College Law School	9:30AM
PALO ALTO, CA	TENTATIVE - Stanford Law School	1:30PM
PHILADELPHIA, PA	Sheraton Univ. City - 36th & Chestnut	9:30AM
POUGHKEEPSIE	Vassar College	9:30AM
QUEENS COUNTY		
1) FLUSHING	CUNY Law School	10AM
2) JAMAICA	St. John's Univ. Law School	10AM/2PM/6PM
ROCHESTER	Days Inn Downtown - 384 East Avenue	9:30AM
ROCKLAND COUNTY	Nanuet Sheraton - Rose Rd. & Rt. 59	9:30AM
SO. ROYALTON, VT	Vermont Law School	9:30AM
SPRINGFIELD, MA	WNEC School of Law	9:30AM
STATEN ISLAND	Wagner College	9:30AM
SUFFOLK COUNTY		
1) HUNTINGTON	Touro College of Law	10AM/6PM
2) SOUTHAMPTON	Southampton Inn - 91 Hill Street	9:30AM
SYRACUSE	Syracuse Univ. College of Law	9:30AM/6PM
TORONTO, CAN.	TENTATIVE	
WASHINGTON, DC	Georgetown Univ. Law Center	9AM
	GW Law School	6PM
WHITE PLAINS	Pace Univ.	9:30AM/6PM
WILLIAMSBURG, VA	William & Mary Law School	1PM

LIVE LOCATION BEGINS - MAY 19TH
TAPE LOCATIONS BEGIN - MAY 25TH

